



**May 2025**

## **ALMOST 250 MEMBERS & GUESTS ATTEND CWEC ANNUAL MEETING**

The 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEK) was held April 10 at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School in Wittenberg. There were 242 members and guests in attendance, with 179 of them registered members of the co-op.

For the safety message, Kevin Kurtzweil, vice president of Operations for CWEK, told those in

attendance about how important it is to hook up a generator properly. He also mentioned three storms that occurred over the three weeks prior to the meeting, and the safety concerns about downed power lines. Because it can be difficult to determine if a downed power line is still energized, everyone needs to stay away from downed power lines and they need to call the co-op to rectify the situation.

Kurtzweil also provided an update on the installation of CWEK's new meter system, which he said has been completed. The new meter system will help crews be more efficient in responding to outages. Kurtzweil also shared information about CWEK's inspections on its electrical grid, including inspecting poles, overhead lines, and underground lines.

Kurtzweil also spoke about the co-op's vegetation management program. He said





CWEC spent just over \$1 million for vegetation management that encompassed 140 miles of power lines.

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## LEHRER RETIRES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lee Lehrer, who has served on the Board of Directors for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative since 2008, has retired from the board.

When Lehrer became a CWEC Director in 2008, he was appointed to the board to fill a vacant seat, but his interest of serving on the board predated that appointment. In 2007, Lehrer ran for the director at large position on the board, but was defeated. Looking back at that election, Lehrer said it was a blessing that he didn't win.

"It was really kind of fortunate that I lost only because that year was hell for me, I had cancer, and I didn't realize it at the time," Lehrer said.



Lehrer said his original interest for seeking a seat on the board was his experience working for a municipal utility.

"The utility business was in my blood. I retired from a utility," Lehrer said.

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## 2025 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

"Life in Rural Wisconsin"

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is holding our annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2026 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

- Photos must be taken within the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, people, etc.)



- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Contest will run until August 25, 2025; however, submitted photos can be taken during anytime of the year.

## PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY OPTIONS

## MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Electricity lights homes and businesses, provides warmth and keeps appliances and equipment running smoothly. During Electrical Safety Month, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity provide these electrical safety tips to avoid hazards both inside and outdoors.



### **Staying safe on the road**

Downed power lines can happen because of wind, storms, animals or an auto accident/collision.

1. If you see a downed power line, call 9-1-1 to report it and stay in your car. You cannot tell by looking or listening if the power line is deenergized. Wait in your vehicle until an electric utility crew member says it is safe to get out.
2. Do not drive over a downed power line. Doing so could cause a domino effect and bring down other lines, poles and equipment.
3. The only time you should exit is if your vehicle or cab is on fire. If this is the case, make a solid jump from the car or cab without touching it, landing with both feet together. Then, hop away with your feet together as far as you can.

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## YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SET FOR JULY

For high school students who will be a sophomore or junior in the fall, Youth Leadership Conference is designed specifically for you. This three-day, all-expense paid program is jammed with fun, hands-on activities and seminars



designed to help students identify and develop their leadership skills. It is planned by high school students and features nationally recognized speakers.

This year's event, scheduled for July 15-17, will once again be held at UW-Stout in Menomonie.



High school students who are interested in being a sponsored representative of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, please contact your high school guidance counselor or Bert Lehman at 715-677-2220 or by email at [bert.lehman@cwecoop.com](mailto:bert.lehman@cwecoop.com).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YLC

## FIVE TIPS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISKS

Wildfires are no longer confined to the western United States. Traditionally associated with dry, fire-prone regions like California, wildfires are now affecting areas in the Midwest and even parts of the Southeast.

This shift is driven by rising temperatures, prolonged droughts and changing weather patterns, which are creating conditions ripe for fires in regions that historically saw fewer of them. As a result, more communities are now facing growing threats from wildfires, prompting a need for broader awareness and preparedness nationwide.



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) is working to reduce the risk of wildfires throughout our service territory. Through regular vegetation management and grid maintenance and hardening practices, we are proactively working to reduce risks and improve the reliability of our local system.

READ THE REST OF THE ARTICLE



## *We Will Never Forget*

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 26 for the Memorial Day holiday. Regular business will resume on Tuesday, May 27. From everyone here at CWEC, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Bill Payment  
Options

Energy  
Conservation  
Rewards

Small Business  
Loans

Operation Round  
Up Information

Thinking about  
adding solar  
energy?

Community  
Events Calendar



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